

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 14-21, 23-31 and 34 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention discloses control logic unit coupled to the operating elements wherein each operating element is actuatable and nonactuatable by a user, the control logic unit is configured to detect a user input, change an operating state of the electrical appliance according to the user input, and activate a status display device of each operating element that is in an actuatable state and deactivate the status display device of each operating element that is in a non-actuatable state in response to a change in the electrical appliance from a first operating state to a second operating state. While Choi discloses operating elements which are either actuatable or nonactuatable by a user, the Applicant points out on page 11 of the Remarks that Choi does not disclose that the control logic unit operates all of the limitations of the present invention as listed above for claim 14. The Examiner concurs with this analysis of the present invention compared to the disclosure of Choi. Moreover, the prior art indicates that this particular device is novel and has not been published or patented by other entities.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Errington et al. (US 7,156,167), Hull (US 2004/0262410), Okamoto (US 2002/0029575), Ashworth et al. (US 7,000,849), Roh et al. (US 6,393,848), Kikuiri et al. (US 5,493,868) discloses actuatable user push buttons for an electric appliance.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer A Mehmood whose telephone number is (571) 272.2976. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. George Bugg, can be reached at (571) 272.2998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

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have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jennifer A. Mehmood  
May 29, 2008

/George A Bugg/  
Acting SPE of Art Unit 2612